UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,562	07/29/2003	Bi-Yun Ych	SUND 114CIP	4818

23995	7590	11/14/2006

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EXAMINER
RAHMAN, FAHMIDA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2116	

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/628,562	YEH ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Fahmida Rahman	2116	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>26 September 2006</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-6, 12-27 and 32-34</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-6, 12-27 and 32-34</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>29 July 2003</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in response to communications filed on 9/26/06.

2.   Claims 1, 12-15, 20-22 have been amended. Claims 7-11, 28-31 have been

canceled and claims 32-34 have been added. Thus, claims 1-6, 12-27, 32-34 are

pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant

regards as the invention.

Claim 14 recites "an initiating signal" in line 2. It is unclear whether it is intended to be

the same or different from "an initiating signal" recited in line 2 of claim 13. It is

necessary to establish a relationship between the two recitations. For the rest of the

action, it is assumed that same relationship was intended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form

the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 12, 15-17, 20, 22, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by

Klein (US Patent 6216224).

For claim 12, Klein teaches the following limitations:

A method for accessing initialization data (102 in Fig 1) **for starting a central**

processor unit (lines 55-57 of column 3; lines 5-10 of column 1) **in a computer**

system (Fig 1) **that also includes a bus** (112), **an ISA-PCI bridge chip** (110)

connected to the bus, a non-volatile memory (104) **that stores the initialization**

data (102) **and a system controller** (114) **connected between the bus** (112) **and the**

central processing unit (106), **the method comprising:**

-       **sending a request for the initialization data from the system controller to**

        the ISA-PCI bridge   (lines 25-30 of column 3 mention that the system

        controller 114 transfers ROM data 102 to RAM 118. Thus, the North Bridge

        114 requests for initialization data 102 through South Bridge 110) **in order to**

        access initialization data from the non-volatile memory, which stores a

        BIOS and the initialization data (lines 20-35 of column 1);

- **in response to the request, accessing the non-volatile memory to read out initialization data by south bridge chip** (Fig 1 shows that the ROM data 102 is read and sent by 110);

- **sending the initialization data from the ISA-PCI bridge to the system controller** (Fig 1 shows the arrow from 104 to 116. Thus, the ROM data 102 is transferred from 104 to 116, which includes sending data from 110 to 114)

- **upon receiving the initialization data sent from the south-bridge chip, activating the central processor unit for initialization of the CPU based on the initialization data received by the north-bridge chip from the south bridge chip** (lines 1-20 of column 2).

Klein (US Patent 6216224) does not explicitly mention that 114 is the north bridge and 110 is the south bridge. Instead, 114 is labeled as system controller in line 7 of column 2 and 110 is labeled as ISA-PCI bridge in line 28 of column 4.

System controller and ISA-PCI bridge are known as north bridge and south bridge respectively. To support the statement, Examiner presents Klein (US Patent 5974239), which mentions that system controller is sometimes called the north bridge (lines 47-48 of column 1) and the bridge between PCI and ISA bus is called South bridge (lines 60-61 of column 1; lines 59-60 of column 4). Thus, Klein (US Patent 6216224) interchangeably used "system controller" with "north bridge" and "ISA bridge" with "south bridge".

For claim 15, 104 is the ROM containing BIOS.

For claim 16, the mentioned steps are required for transferring initialization data from non-volatile memory to system memory through South Bridge under the driving of North Bridge.

For claim 17, note lines 1-17 of column 2.

For claim 20, Klein teaches the following limitations:

a system for accessing initialization data (102 in Fig 1) **for starting a central processor unit** (lines 55-57 of column 3; lines 5-10 of column 1), **the system comprising:**

-       **a non-volatile memory storing BIOS and initialization data** (lines 20-35 of column 1) ;

-       **a South Bridge chip** (110) **in direct communication with the non-volatile memory** (Fig 1), **the South Bridge chip, when requested for the initialization data, for accessing the initialization data from the non-volatile memory** (Fig 1 shows that 102 is passed to 116 through 110. Thus, 110 accesses 102);

-       **a system controller, or North Bridge chip** (114) **coupled between ISA-PCI bridge** (110) **and the central processor unit** (106), **the North Bridge chip,**

> when activated, sends a request for initialization data to the South
> Bridge (Fig 1);
>
> - wherein upon receiving a request from the system controller for
> obtaining the initialization data (lines 27 of column 3 mention that the
> system controller is to transfer the ROM data to RAM. Thus, the North Bridge
> does the request to obtain ROM data from 104), the initialization data is
> accessed by the ISA-PCI bridge (Fig 1) and forwarded to the system
> controller (lines 1-5 of column 2) for activating the central processor unit
> (lines 1-20 of column 2).;
>
> - wherein upon receiving the initialization data sent from the South
> Bridge chip, the North Bridge chip activates the central processing unit
> based on the received initialization data from the South Bridge chip
> (lines 5-13 of column 5 mention that RESET is deasserted and CPU is
> initialized after initialization routines are transferred from ROM to RAM.
> Therefore, CPU cannot be activated until initialization routines are transferred
> from ROM to RAM. Thus, based on receiving initialization routines from South
> bridge chip, north bridge 114 activates CPU).

Klein (US Patent 6216224) does not explicitly mention that 114 is the north bridge and
110 is the south bridge. Instead, 114 is labeled as system controller in line 7 of column
2 and 110 is labeled as ISA-PCI bridge in line 28 of column 4.

It is examiner's position that the system controller and ISA-PCI bridge are known as north bridge and south bridge respectively. To support the statement, Examiner presents Klein (US Patent 5974239), which mentions that system controller is sometimes called the north bridge (lines 47-48 of column 1) and the bridge between PCI and ISA bus is called South bridge (lines 60-61 of column 1; lines 59-60 of column 4). Thus, Klein (US Patent 6216224) interchangeably used "system controller" with "north bridge" and "ISA bridge" with "south bridge".

For claim 22, 104 is the ROM containing BIOS.

For claim 27, lines 1-17 of column 2 mention that CPU reads initialization data.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission of prior art, in view of Klein (US Patent 6216224).

For claim 1, applicant admits that the following limitations exist in prior art:

A method for accessing initialization data for starting a central processor unit in a computer system (Fig 1 and 2 show that the serial PROM 200 is storing initialization data for starting a central processing unit 208 in a computer system of Fig 1) **comprising:**

-       **starting up a north-bridge chip** (line 20 of page 3) **that is coupled between CPU (208) and South bridge chip (206);**

-       **requesting said initialization data by said north bridge chip** (lines 20-22 of page 3) **in order to access initialization data from a non-volatile memory (200).**

-       **receiving said initialization data by said north-bridge chip** (lines 21-22 of page 3), **starting CPU for initialization of the CPU based on the received initialization data** ([0007] of page 3).

However, the applicant's admission of prior art does not teach the following limitations:

-       **requesting initialization data from a south bridge chip.**

-       **Non-volatile memory stores BIOS and the initialization data**

Klein teaches the following limitations:

-       North Bridge chip (114) is coupled between CPU (106) and South Bridge chip (110).

-       Request to the South Bridge chip from North Bridge chip in order to access the initialization data (lines 25-30 of column 3 mention that the system controller 114 transfers ROM data 102 to RAM 118. Thus, the North Bridge

114 requests for initialization data 102 through South Bridge 110) from a non-volatile memory (104) which stores a BIOS and the initialization data (lines 25-35 of column 1);

- Upon receiving said initialization data from the South bridge chip by said north-bridge chip, starting up the CPU for initialization of the CPU based on the received initialization data (lines 1-20 of column 2).

Klein (US Patent 6216224) does not explicitly mention that 114 is the north bridge and 110 is the south bridge. Instead, 114 is labeled as system controller in line 7 of column 2 and 110 is labeled as ISA-PCI bridge in line 28 of column 4.

It is examiner's position that the system controller and ISA-PCI bridge are known as north bridge and south bridge respectively. To support the statement, Examiner presents Klein (US Patent 5974239), which mentions that system controller is sometimes called the north bridge (lines 47-48 of column 1) and the bridge between PCI and ISA bus is called South bridge (lines 60-61 of column 1; lines 59-60 of column 4). Thus, Klein (US Patent 6216224) interchangeably used "system controller" with "north bridge" and "ISA bridge" with "south bridge".

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Klein and applicant's admission of prior art. One ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to request initialization data of CPU from a South Bridge chip as disclosed in Klein, since it would make the system compact as only one shared non-

volatile memory for BIOS and initialization data is required, which is accessed by CPU through South Bridge.

For claims 2, 3, lines 23-24 of page 2 of applicant's disclosure mention that the initialization data may include SIP data used in AMD CPUs.

For claim 4, note lines 19-21 of [0007] of page 3 of applicant's disclosure, which mention that the South Bridge is powered and starts up the North Bridge.

For claim 5, requesting includes sending a signal from north bridge chip (114) to South bridge chip (104).

For claim 6, lines 22-24 of [0007] of page 3 of applicant's disclosure mention that the CPU sets initial value using initialization data sent by North Bridge and operates normally. Thus, the method further comprises sending said initialization data to the central processor unit of said computer system for starting up the central processor unit.

For claim 32, Klein teaches receiving initialization data from the south-bridge chip by north-bridge chip and starting up the processor. However, Klein does not teach setting initial values for initialization of the CPU based on received initialization data received by North bridge.

Claims 13-14, 18-19, 21, 23-26, 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Klein (US Patent 6216224), in view of applicant's admission of prior

art.

For claim 13, Klein does not teach activating North bridge by South Bridge. AAPA

teaches (note lines 19-21 of [0007] of page 3 of applicant's disclosure) that the South

Bridge is powered and starts up the North Bridge. One ordinary skill would be motivated

to start South Bridge first and then North bridge by sending signal from South Bridge, as

it is one of the conventional system in the art.

For claim 14, note Fig 1 of applicant's disclosure.

For claims 18, 23, Klein mentions that the address counter preloads an initial address,

which is the highest address for ROM data that is transferred from ROM to RAM in lines

30-35 of column 5. Thus, the ROM data contains an initialization ID.

For claim 19, Klein does not teach SIP data. AAPA teaches (lines 23-24 of page 2 of

applicant's disclosure) that the initialization data may include SIP data used in AMD

CPUs. One ordinary skill would be motivated to have initialization data to include SIP

data, as it is useful for AMD CPUs.

For claim 21, Klein does not teach any power supply to activate South bridge. Fig 1 of

applicant's disclosure show that South Bridge is connected to power supply controller. One ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to provide power to South Bridge as it is one of the accepted design in the art.

For claim 24, Klein mentions that the address counter preloads an initial address, which is the highest address for ROM data that is transferred from ROM to RAM and the initial address may be provided by hardwiring in lines 30-50 of column 5. Thus, ROM includes a predetermined location for storing initialization data. Lines 50-55 of column 1 mention that after the CPU initialization is executed, it can be discarded and the RAM contains remaining BIOS. Thus, the initialization routines and BIOS have to be stored in separate area because they are separate routines.

For claim 25, Klein does not teach SIP data. AAPA teaches (lines 23-24 of page 2 of applicant's disclosure) that the initialization data may include SIP data used in AMD CPUs. One ordinary skill would be motivated to have initialization data to include SIP data, as it is useful for AMD CPUs.

For claim 26, Klein is retrieving the initialization data by the south bridge chip; and sending the initialization data to the north bridge chip.

However the south bridge chip of Klein does not include means for: activating the north bridge chip. Applicant's admission of prior art activates North Bridge by South Bridge.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to have combined the teachings of applicant's admission of prior art and Klein. One ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to activate the North Bridge by South Bridge as disclosed in applicant's admission of prior art, since South Bridge contains the initialization data, which should be started before other components.

For claims 33-34, Klein teaches receiving initialization data from the south-bridge chip by north-bridge chip and starting up the processor. However, Klein does not teach setting initial values for initialization of the CPU based on received initialization data received by North bridge.

AAPA teaches setting initialization values for initialization using the initialization data sent by the north bridge. It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of applicant's admission of prior art and Klein. One ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to set initial values for initialization of the CPU based on received initialization data from North Bridge, since that would remove a number of strapping and jumping for setting the initialization data.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 9/26/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Klein does not teach activation of CPU for initialization of CPU based on initialization data received by the north-bridge chip from the south-bridge chip.

Examiner disagrees. Applicant admits that when transfer of firmware routines is completed, CPU is initialized (column 2, lines 8-13) and 114 transfers ROM data 102 to RAM (column 2, lines 6-18). Therefore, CPU is initialized after transfer is completed, which requires deassertion of CPU_RESET (lines 5-6 of column 5) by 202. Deassertion of CPU_RESET causes CPU to be activated and initialized. Therefore, CPU is initialized based on initialization data in the sense that CPU is initialized only when initialization data completely transferred to RAM. If applicant were to initialize CPU by setting CPU parameters through initialization data, claim language should reflect that.

Applicant further argues that Klein does not disclose system controller/North bridge chip activates CPU.

Examiner disagrees. CPU is initialized after transfer is completed, which requires deassertion of CPU_RESET (lines 5-6 of column 5) by 202. Deassertion of

CPU_RESET causes CPU to be activated. 202 is connected to CPU by system controller. Therefore, system controller is releasing CPU from reset.

Applicant further argues that there is no motivation to combine AAPA and Klein.

Examiner disagrees. Motivation is already provided in the action that typically South bridge connects the non-volatile memory in the data processing system. Therefore, ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to place the non-volatile memory of AAPA to connect to the South bridge. All other steps (ie, accessing South bridge by North bridge) are required for proper operation of the system.

Applicant further argues that Klein's invention is limited to Intel CPU.

Examiner disagrees. Lines 48-55 of column 8 mention that the invention is not limited to the embodiment described. Therefore, this invention is applicable to AMD processor also.

Applicant further argues that initial address of Klein is for RSC to perform transfer, not for initialization of CPU.

Examiner disagrees. All these steps are required for initialization of CPU.
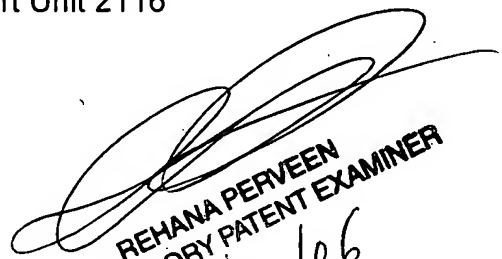
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fahmida Rahman whose telephone number is 571-272-8159. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on571-272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fahmida Rahman
Examiner
Art Unit 2116

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11/13/06